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# RURAL DISTRICT

- of -

# BROADWOODWIDGER

# ANNUAL REPORT

- of the -

# MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

- for the -

YEAR 1954

Broadwoodwidger Rural District

~~Tavistock and District Public Health Services~~

*With the Compliments*

*of the*

*Medical Officer of Health*

*Drake Road,*
*Tavistock.*

*Tel. No.* 514

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# BROADWOODWIDGER RURAL DISTRICT

## Annual Report for the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1954

Mr.Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report for the year ending 31st. December 1954 in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health.

The general health of the district may be described as exceptionally good throughout the year. There was no epidemic and the children remained healthy and well nourished in great contrast to the situation twenty years ago.

The vital statistics set out below compare very favourably indeed with those for the Country as a whole.

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### General Statistics

| | |
|---|---|
| Area (in acres) ..... | 29,294 |
| Population - 1931 Census ..... | 2,177 |
| Population - 1951 Census ..... | 2,028 |
| Estimated Home Population - Mid 1954 .... | 2,040 |
| Parishes ..... | 6 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses ..... | 607 |
| Rateable Value ..... | £4,475 |
| Product of Penny Rate ..... | £17.18.8 |
| Loan Debt ..... | £46,620 |

### Vital Statistics

| | Male | Female | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Live Births ..... | 22 | 12 | 34 |
| Legitimate ..... | 22 | 12 | 34 |
| Illegitimate ..... | - | - | |

| | | England & Wales |
|---|---|---|
| Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population | 16.7 | 15.2 |
| Corrected Birth Rate ..... | 17.7 | |
| Still Births ..... | 1 | |
| Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births..... | 28.6 | 23.4 |

| | Male | Female | Total | England & Wales |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Deaths ..... | 10 | 4 | 14 | |
| Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population ..... | | | 6.9 | 11.3 |
| Corrected Death Rate ..... | | | 7.5 | |
| Deaths from Maternal Causes ..... | | | Nil | |
| Maternal Mortality ..... | | | - | 0.69 |
| Deaths of Infants under 1 year ..... | | | Nil | |
| Infant Mortality ..... | | | - | 25. 5 |

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The chief causes of death were as follows:-

General Causes:

| | |
|---|---|
| Heart Disease ..... | 4 |
| Cancer ..... | 3 |
| Coronary Disease ..... | 2 |
| Bronchitis ..... | 2 |
| Cerebral Vascular Disease ... | 1 |
| Other Causes ..... | 2 |
| | 14 |

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Age of Death Table

| Age at Death | Male | Female |
|---|---|---|
| Infants under 1 year ..... | - | - |
| 1 - 5 years ..... | - | - |
| 5 - 15 " ..... | - | - |
| 15- 25 " ..... | - | - |
| 25- 35 " ..... | - | - |
| 35- 45 " ..... | - | - |
| 45- 55 " ..... | 1 | 2 |
| 55- 65 " ..... | 3 | - |
| 65- 75 " ..... | 3 | - |
| 75 & over ..... | 3 | 2 |
| Totals: | 10 | 4 |

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## General Provision of Health Services

These remain as in previous years and are generally adequate. The majority of babies are born at Old Tree Maternity Home which is in Cornwall. This for some time caused confusion in the local records but a voluntary arrangement has now been made with the Medical Officer of Health of that district which is proving satisfactory.

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## Infectious Diseases

None of the serious infectious diseases occurred.

Three cases of Measles and one case of Whooping Cough were notified by the doctors during the year.

Ten cases of German Measles and one case of Measles were notified from North Petherwin School.

Diphtheria: No case occurred during the year.

Tuberculosis: One new case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was notified but no death was recorded. At the end of the year six people remained on the register - 5 Pulmonary and 1 Non-pulmonary.

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In conclusion I would thank the Council for the ready hearing I always receive, and Mr.Judd who has once again kindly prepared the Section on Housing and Sanitation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E.D.ALLEN . PRICE.

Medical Officer of Health.

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## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr.Chairman and Gentlemen,

### COUNCIL HOUSES

Woodley Park

A block of four Council Houses was completed on this site during the year.

Coombeshead Cross

A tender of £3,225.0.0 was accepted for the erection of a pair of houses together with site works. Work on this Contract started during the Autumn.

The Council houses completed and under construction in Parishes are as follows:-

| PARISH | COMPLETED | UNDER CONSTRUCTION |
|---|---|---|
| Broadwoodwidger | 8 | - |
| North Petherwin | 6 | - |
| Northcott Hamlet | Nil | - |
| St.Giles in-the-Heath | 6 | - |
| Virginstowe | Nil | 2 |
| Werrington | 8 | - |
| Total | 28 | 2 |

Private Enterprise Houses completed during the year... NIL

PLANS

The following plans were approved:-

| | |
|---|---|
| Dwelling Houses ... | 2 |
| Alterations and additions ... | 4 |
| Farm buildings etc. ... | 5 |
| Bathroom, W.C. & septic tank drainage... | 9 |

Housing Act 1949. Improvement Grants

During the year the Council received four applications for Improvement grants and in each case the Council agreed to make a grant. Details are as follows:-

Provision of bathroom, W.C., hot and cold water and drainage for two agricultural cottages.

Division of one large house into two separate dwellings with all amenities for each dwelling.

The tenders for these four schemes amounted to £2,040.0.0 and the total grants given were £750.0.0.

HOUSING STATISTICS:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:- | |
| (a) | No.of dwelling houses inspected for defects under Public Health or Housing Acts... ... ... ... | 30 |
| (b) | Inspections made for the purpose ... ... ... | 69 |
| 2. | | |
| (a) | No.of dwelling houses inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925/32 ... ... | 15 |
| (b) | Inspections made for the purpose ... ... ... | 20 |
| 3. | No.of dwelling houses found to be in a state dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. ... ... ... | 2 |
| 4. | Dwelling houses (exclusive of those under preceding sub-heading) not in all respects reasonably fit for habitation ... ... ... | 16 |
| 5. | Remedy of defects during the year without the service of Formal Notices ... ... ... | 17 |
| | No.of houses rendered fit in consequence of action by Local Authority or Office:- | |
| | Housing Act ... ... ... ... ... ... | Nil |
| | Public Health Act ... ... ... ... ... | 3 |
| 6. | Notices under Section 11, Housing Act 1936 Property since demolished ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| 7. | Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11 and still in force. | 2 |
| 8. | Notices under Public Health Act .. ... ... ... | 3 |

9. Applications received for Improvement Grant under the Housing Act 1949 ... ... ... ... ... ... 4

10. Number of Improvement Grants made by Council . ... 4

FOOD SUPPLIES:

Bakeries:
There are none in the district.

Butchers:
There is only one resident in the district. As conditions continued to remain unsatisfactory a Statutory Notice requiring the Owner to build a new meat store was served by the Council.

Grocers:
There are seven general stores from which groceries are sold. One is a reasonably large shop the remainder being small and consisting of one room being divided off from the remainder of the dwelling house. Conditions are as satisfactory as may be expected.

Ice Cream:
There are two retailers of pre-packed ice cream. Conditions are satisfactory.

Meat Inspection:
The two butchers with slaughter-houses in the district applied for licences. One of these was refused as the slaughter-house could not be brought up to reasonable standard. After improvements had been carried out at the other slaughter-house a licence was issued. As nothing but the highest quality meat is killed at this slaughter-house no difficulties have arisen with regard to meat inspection.

Milk:
There are no dairies or milk distributors as defined under the Milk and Dairies Regulations in the district. The whole of the milk production and distribution is carried on by producers and producer-retailers and the supervision of such premises is carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries.

Water Supplies:
The year marked the first piped water supplies in the district. The North Devon Water Board completed about 7½ miles of main laying from Ashmill to Box's Shop and the quick response of property owners to connect to the main supply was most satisfactory.

The first tapping of the main was by the Council for the Coombeshead Council Houses.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Samples submitted for analysis | ..... | 10 |
| Satisfactory | ..... | 2 |
| Unsatisfactory | ..... | 8 |

Refuse Collection:

Refuse is collected monthly in that part of the district including Petherwin Gate, Langdon, Ladycross and Yeolmbridge. About 75% of the remainder of the district is served with a quarterly collection.

Factories:

There are two factories registered under the Factories Act 1937. Conditions at both factories are satisfactory.

Drainage:

With the exception of a waste-water sewer at Petherwin Gate there are no sewered areas in the district. During the year 10 properties have been converted from Pail Closets to water closets and septic tank drainage.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Council for the support and ready hearing which they always give me.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T.A.JUDD

Sanitary Inspector.